



Chairman Kevin Yoder

*Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations*

U.S. Capitol Police FY2019 Budget

April 11, 2018

Opening Statement As Prepared

I would like to welcome back the Members of the Subcommittee and thank them for all of the hard work on our fiscal year 2018 bill. As we start consideration of fiscal year 2019 budget requests I look forward to working together again on putting together a Legislative Branch Appropriations bill that adequately addresses the needs of our agencies so they can carry out their respective missions while at the same time balancing fiscal restraint. We have important work before us in being good stewards of taxpayer dollars as they are spent on the Legislative Branch and I am glad to formally begin our hearing season. I want this committee to work in a bipartisan and collaborative process. I invite our Members to recommend additional site visits or items which they believe we can achieve via our bill.

This year, as Chairman, I have decided to expand the number of hearings we will hold. Our Subcommittee will consider a fiscal year 2019 budget request of \$4.9 billion which is \$200 million over our fiscal year 2018 allocation. I felt it was important to hear from more of our agencies through in-person testimony in order to more thoroughly scrutinize their requests and to help fulfill our responsibility of ensuring every tax-payer dollar appropriated is done so responsibly.

Today I would like to welcome the Capitol Police to hear testimony regarding their fiscal year 2019 budget request. Testifying before us we have Chief Matthew Verderosa, accompanying him is Assistant Chief Steven Sund and Chief Administrative Officer, Richard Braddock.

I would like to take a moment to thank all the officers and civilians of the Capitol Police for their service. Their presence allows members and staff to safely conduct the people's work and ensures that visitors can safely enjoy their time on Capitol Hill. The shooting in Alexandria last June is still very much on our minds, the incident shook us all. I am pleased to hear that Special Agent David Bailey has returned to work and that Special Agent Crystal Grinner continues to make strides in her recovery, they are both heroes and have been an inspiration to us all.

In response to the shooting, the department identified the need for additional funds that could go to remediating some of the lessons learned and bolstering their efforts to make sure something like this doesn't happen again. Although a bit delayed, I am happy those funds were made available in the recently passed omnibus.

Chief, your budget request for fiscal year 2019 is \$456.4 million. This is approximately a 7% increase from the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. I understand that the Capitol Police is

continuously asked to expand their role; from securing the O'Neill House Office Building, to garage security, to more pre-screeners, to additional dignitary protection, and the list goes on. Chief, I appreciate your leadership and efforts in trying to meet these additional responsibilities while at the same time making sure the day-to-day operations of the department continue. Having said that, this subcommittee has a responsibility to scrutinize your budget request and take a holistic approach across all of the Legislative Branch agencies when determining where to allocate funds. Since sequestration the Capitol Police's annual appropriations have increased more than 32% while most Legislative Branch agencies have only received modest increases.

Chief Verderosa, your complete statement will be made part of the record, feel free to summarize your remarks at this time.

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